

K-189

Mount Herman
Near Chesterville
c. 1794

On the 28th of April 1730, "Cheapside," an 890 acre parcel extending to the Chester River was resurveyed under the new name of "Mount Herman" for William Thomas.¹ It was patented on the 1st of September 1732. From that time until 1919 the farm remained in the Thomas family.

According to family tradition, the present house was built for William and Elizabeth Thomas in 1794-95. The details of the house certainly suggest the same general date, since the cornice is similar to Knocks Folly and Airy Hill, both built in the 1790's. Like those two houses, the central entrance of the five bay facade was originally designed for a pedimented architrave, although the existing architrave is a naive copy of the original. Its original might have been similar to either of the above or that of Thornton, only a few miles to the west. Like Thornton, the service wing is set back from the plane of the facade, leaving enough space for a porch, but here, the service wing is two stories tall.

Mr. Herman's floor plan consists of a central stairhall with two flanking rooms and a one room kitchen in the wing, similar to the plan of The Adventure. Interior details are similar to Thornton and Rich Level, both of which were built in the same period.

William Thomas, for whom the house was built in 1794-95, died in 1808. It apparently descended to his son William who, in 1822, was taxed on 565 3/4 acres composed of the following:

K-189

Part Killingsworthmore	105 acres
Mothers Plains	75 acres
Kilherrins	1 3/4 acres
Pt. Harman	143 acres
Pt. Ratlif	241 acres ²

*These will align
in final pages*

In 1860 the property was owned by Miss E. Thomas and in the 1877 Atlas by her heirs. In the latter it was listed as the residence of C. L. Wallis, apparently the niece and nephew of Miss Thomas. In 1919 the property was sold out of the family and deteriorated for a number of years before being rehabilitated by the present owners.

Mount Herman is the best example of Federal style farmhouse in the Chesterville area.

1. Rent Rolls, Lib. 5, fol. 122.
2. 1822 Tax Assessment.

K-189

1794-1795

Mt. Hermon (Mt. Herman, Mt. Harmon)

Near Chesterville

Private

Mt. Hermon is located on the north side of the old Morgnec-Chesterville road, a short distance west of its intersection with Cherry Lane. The road north to Browntown borders the farm on the west. The tract of which it originally was a part, Cheapside, evidently extended southward to the Chester River, a considerable distance from the present farm. The 2-1/2 storey brick house is said to have been constructed in 1794-1795 for William Thomas and his family. It is built in a vernacular Federal style with a five-bay-wide main section (though there are now only four bays in the rear) and a two-bay-wide wing at the east gable end that is set back considerably from the main-section main, south facade and also extends beyond the main section in the rear. There is a screened porch in the space created by the inset. The plan of the main section is central hall with one room on each side. The first storey of the wing is a kitchen, with rudely-finished rooms on the second storey, evidently for farm help. Though there have been some alterations and removals, much original interior detail remains, notable especially in the two first-storey rooms of the main section. There are now four dormers, two in each roof slope of the main section, that are replacements for dormers earlier removed. They are positioned over the inside bays adjacent to the central bay. The house at Mt. Hermon is the outstanding--and only--large house built in a Federal style in its area that survives, though there are several considerably to the north (east of Kennedyville). The period in which this house was built, the 1790s, was still one of fine hand-craftsmanship of decorative detail, which was to decline and finally essentially disappear during the early nineteenth century with the coming of machine-made moldings and simplification of style. Many finely-made details can be seen at Mt. Hermon--facade cornice, stair, interior cornice and chair rail, and cupboards.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. K-189

Magi No. 1501895204

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Mt. Hermon

and/or common

2. Location

street & number North side Old Morgnec-Chesterville Rd., 1.7 miles west
of Chesterville ☐ not for publicationcity, town Chesterville ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mrs. John D. Fernwalt Sr.

street & number 524 Garden Street telephone no.: 348-5808

city, town Mount Holly state and zip code New Jersey 08060

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House liberEHP 12

street & number Cross Street folio 690

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Site Inventory - HABS Inventory

date September 12, 1986 ☒ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. K-189

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Mt. Hermon is located on the north side of the old Morgnec-Chesterville road, a short distance west of its intersection with Cherry Lane. The road north to Browntown borders the farm on the west. The tract of which it originally was a part, Cheapside, evidently extended southward to the Chester River, a considerable distance from the present farm. The 2-1/2 story brick house is said to have been constructed in 1794-1795 for William Thomas and his family. It is built in a Federal style with a five-bay-wide main section (though there are now only four bays in the rear) and a two-bay-wide wing at the east gable end the is set back considerably from the main-section main, south facade and also extends beyond the main section in the rear. There is a screened porch in the space created by the inset. The plan of the main section is central hall with one room on each side. The first story of the wing is a kitchen, with rudely-finished rooms on the second story, evidently for farm help. Though there have been some alterations and removals, much original interior detail remains, notable especially in the two first-story rooms of the main section, that are replacements for dormers earlier removed. They are positioned over the inside bays adjacent to the central bay.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-189

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1794–1975 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The house at Mt. Hermon is the outstanding--and only--large house built in a Federal style in its area that survives, though there are several considerably to the north (east of Kennedyville). The period in which this house was built, the 1790s, was still one of the fine hand-craftsmanship of decorative detail, which was to decline and finally essentially disappear during the early nineteenth century with the coming of machine-made moldings and simplification of style. Many finely-made details can be seen at Mr. Hermon--the facade cornice, the stair, the interior cornice and chair rail, and cupboards.

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-189

Letter from Ellen S. Wallis, Arlington, Va., to Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Mance, Chestertown Maryland, September 29, 1944

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification _____

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret Q. Fallaw, Survey Consultant

County Commissioners of Kent County

organization Historical Society of Kent County

date September 20, 1985

Court House

778-4600

street & number Church Alley

telephone 778-3499

city or town Chestertown

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

PS-2746

Both brick sections appear to have been built at the same time or the wing is later; there is no evidence that the wing is earlier. It was simply a subsidiary service wing. It is two storeys tall, with roof considerably lower than that of the main section, and two bays wide and two deep. In recognition of its lesser importance, it was recessed from the main-section facade.

The brick bond of the main, south facade of the main section is Flemish. The joints are struck. The bricks are dark red, and the original mortar may still be in place; it appears to have been made with oyster shells. The ends and rear wall of the main section have been sprayed with some sort of fine stucco-type finish and then painted. The bond is not visible there. A typical facade brick measures $8\frac{3}{8}" \times 2\frac{1}{4}" \times 4\frac{1}{8}" \pm$. There is a three-course belt on the main facade that extends to the corners. It is now painted white. The wing's brick bond on front and rear walls is 1-to-5 common. The ends are stuccoed and painted, as is the second storey of the facade, above the porch.

Under the main section there is a full cellar, where the bond of the foundation walls is 1-to-5 common. The wing is built over a low crawl space. The cellar is entered from the porch, into the east end of the main section in the south bay.

Chimneys are located at each end of the main section, in the center. The west chimney protrudes about $8\frac{1}{2}"$ from the main end wall, and it is corbelled in at about second-storey window level. This chimney evidently has been rebuilt. Like the west end's wall around it, the chimney has been painted, up to roof level. The brick protruding at the top, beyond roof level, appears to be modern common brick. Both main-section chimneys serve a fireplace on each storey. The wing chimney, at the east end center, also protrudes, here about $12"$; the chimney is now large and quite square. Modern common red brick appears to have been added to the exterior of the old chimney to stabilize it. There is a two-course cap.

Both roofs are covered with wood shingles, a relatively modern application to be in keeping with the house. However, they are beginning to deteriorate, to curl and split, very likely beginning to admit water. At main section ends there are flush verge boards, shaped at the eave ends to drop over part of the eave cornice. On the main-section's main facade there is a large and elaborate cornice that is boxed. The crown molding appears to be compoundly molded with a center bead or reeding. There are handsome, simply shaped modillion blocks under the soffit, set about $12"$ apart. There is a large (c. $9\text{--}10"$ deep) bed molding below the short frieze which the rear of the blocks abut. The bed is a large ovolo above a large cove with fillet. In the rear of the main section the cornice is boxed, with a plain board on the fascia as a crown molding. This may be repair-replacement work. There is a handsome bed molding here, too, though smaller than on the main facade; it is also an ovolo profile above a cove. There are no modillions here. The ends of the bed molding on both facades are coped to finish them. The last modillion block is applied to the end of the bed molding's frieze, hence turned sideways. The bed molding hence does not extend from corner to corner of the building,

(continued)

but terminates about 12" from the building corners.

The main entry is in the central bay of the main section. There is a large granite? sill, or step, with face vertical marks. The jambs are panelled; they are recessed and fully raised, with a tiny ovolo with fillets panel molding. There are three panels per side that match the panels of the door. The fourth, topmost panels are aligned with the transom. The transom has four lights and is above a stepped transom bar. The head is also paneled. Appearing to be added are the columns on posts on each side to support a canopy-like pediment; the crossettes of ovolo and fillets are also probably added. The tympanum is plain except for unrefined dentils at the lower edge. According to Mrs. Wallis' letter, there originally was a pediment at this door, but it was long gone. The present pediment is an attempt to replace what was originally there. There is a brick stoop and steps to the door. The door appears to be the original six-panel door; the hardware does not seem to be. There is an old, filled hole. There is a door at the rear of the hall on the north side. Entry into the wing is on the south side, in the west of the two bays, through a brick-floored screen porch. The door appears to be a reproduction, not as wide as the original opening, unless the brick changes around the opening are simply a matter of repair work. The door is beaded board and batten on the interior, which material becomes the panel ground on the exterior. Rails and stiles seem to have been added to a board and batten door. The original opening appears to have been 43" wide by 71-1/2" high, measuring from the present floor. The trim is replacement, plain and 5-1/2" wide on the exterior. There may have been a door once on the north side of the wing, where there are now only windows.

Windows of the main section are double-hung except for fixed casements on the third level. The lights of the double-hung windows are 9-over-9 on the first storey and 9-over-6 on the second. The trim is plain and about 5" wide; the early trim is gone. There are no brick arches, and it does not appear that there are wood lintels either, though there may be behind the present wide trim. All trim and sills may have been replaced; sash, for the most part, appear original. There are no shutters on the rear. Front shutters are louvered and not from the period of building.

On the interior the handsome stair continues to the third level. Dormers to light the third storey rooms have been rebuilt. The plastered dormer opening now resembles a stilted arch, probably not the original shape for the dormer opening. An unusual louvered vent above one door from hall to chamber remains, and a second, for the other room, was built to match it. A fine cornice is in the west room, also a chair rail. The dining room has cupboards on both sides of the mantel (which has an overmantel). The upper cupboards now have no doors, but they do have butterfly shelves.

A letter dated September 29, 1944, from Ellen S. Wallis (Mrs. Thomas Smythe Wallis), of Arlington, Virginia, to Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Mance, then the owners of Mount Hermon, outlines much of the history of Mt. Hermon. It seems to be corroborated by the Kent County land records.

According to Mrs. Wallis, the property was in her mother's family from 1738 to 1919, the year of her death, after which the property was sold to settle her estate. The tract was originally part of Cheapside, 890 acres. The Mount Hermon portion was 300 acres, purchased by William Thomas in 1738. It was purchased when he was an old man and about to enter upon his second marriage, to Johannah Powell, daughter of Howell Powell, Jr., of Talbot County. It was part of a marriage contractual agreement to provide for this much younger wife. The marriage produced one son, James Thomas, who inherited the property from his mother and left it to his son William Thomas, "who came up from Talbot County to look after this and other large properties he had inherited. He was my great grandfather." According to Mrs. Wallis, it was this William Thomas who built the present house at Mount Hermon (also called Mt. Herman and Mt. Harmon) in 1794-1795. She states that he and his wife, Elizabeth, and their daughter Elizabeth and son William went to live there in 1795, after it was completed. Another child was born in 1803, Mrs. Wallis' grandmother, Emily Thomas. William Thomas died in 1808 and was buried on the property. Mrs. Wallis says that later his wife, Elizabeth, and one son (James Thomas) were also buried there, along with James Thomas' son William Thomas and wife Eliza Pearce. In 1944 "only one leaning tombstone for James Thomas marks the spot on the East line fence S. E. of the house." This family burying ground can no longer be identified. Mrs. Wallis indicates that the William Thomas who built the house and who died in 1808 was a Revolutionary War veteran, though a Quaker.

Emily Thomas married Capt. Francis Ludolph Wallis. Her brother William Thomas, Jr., inherited the house, but Elizabeth evidently was so fond of the house that she traded her brother a better farm for it. She died in 1875 and left Mt. Hermon to Elizabeth Thomas Wallis Schutt, the mother of the letter writer. She was to have a life interest, but to satisfy the estate claims after her death (seven children), after her death in 1919 at age 81, the property was sold out of the Thomas family.

Mrs. Wallis says that she used to go to the farm with her mother to help manage it (they evidently were absentee owners). She bought the lumber for the granary. According to family tradition, she says, the bricks for the house were made on the property. She refers to a room above the kitchen as "the spinning room." She says that originally it had both front and rear dormers, evidently partly or entirely removed by 1944. The current owner and her husband evidently were the ones who replaced the dormers. The original main-entry architrave evidently was gone by 1944, though she says the outline remained in the bricks over the door. She pictured a pedimented head and a three-light transom. According to Mrs. Wallis, by 1944 the building had become quite deteriorated.

Mt. Hermon was built in 1794-95 by James Thomas. It is a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ story brick house, 5 bays long, one room deep with a 2 bay, 2 story brick wing set back from the main section with a one story screened porch. The center entrance has paneled jambs and door, dog ear trim on the exterior wall and a recent pediment. There are basement windows with wood lintels. The windows of the 1st story have 9/9 sash and those of the 2nd story have 9/6 sash, both with louvered shutters. There is a painted belt course on the facade, all of which is laid in Flenish bond. All other sides are stuccoed and painted white. Below the "A" roof is a fine modillion cornice. The chimneys on each end of the house project from the wall about 6 inches.

The house has recently been remodeled and is in good condition. It stands on a large farm but there are few buildings around the house.

1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Kent</u> TOWN <u>Chesterille</u> VICINITY STREET NO. <u>North side of Rt 447 at Cherry Lane</u>		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>K-189</u>	
ORIGINAL OWNER <u>James Thomas</u> ORIGINAL USE <u>Dwelling</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>John Farnum Jr.</u> PRESENT USE <u>Dwelling</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>Brick</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>2 1/2</u>		2. NAME <u>Mt. Hermon</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>1794-95</u> STYLE <u>Federal</u> ARCHITECT BUILDER	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>NO</u>	
<p> <u>Mt Hermon</u> was built in 1794-95 by <u>James Thomas</u>. It is a 2 1/2 story brick house, 5 bays long, one room deep with a 2 bay, 2 story brick wing set back from the main section with a one story screened porch. The center entrance has paneled jambs + door, dog ear trim on the exterior wall and a recent pediment. There are basement windows with wood lintels. The windows of the 1st story have 9/4 sash and those of the 2nd story have 9/6 sash, both with lowered shutters. There is a painted belt course on the facade, ^{all by} which is laid in Flemish bond. All other sides are stuccoed and painted white. Below the "A" roof is a very fine modillion cornice. The chimneys on each end of the house project from the wall about 6 inches. </p> <p> The house has recently been remodeled and is in good condition. It stands on a large farm but there are few buildings around the house. </p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered <u>NO</u> Interior Exterior <u>good</u>			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Michael Bourne</u> DATE OF RECORD <u>Sept 12, 1968</u>	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

Name Mount Hermon
~~Old~~ Betsy Thomas Property MHT# K-189
 Location Kent Chesterville
 COUNTY town
 Northside of Rt 447 at Cherry Lane
 address or road#

First owner of record James Thomas DATE 1794-95

Present owner S. D. Fernwalt Jr DATE 1968

Address Kennedyville, Md.

Parcel or Deed # _____

Original use Dwelling

Present use Dwelling

Md. Map Coordinates _____

Long. & Lat. reading _____

Style Georgian

Date(s) of construction c. 1798 or earlier

Architect _____

Builder _____

DESCRIPTION:

2 1/2 brick
 NUMBER of stories type wall construction

Foundation-basement . 4 inches w/ wood limbs on each side

Wall construction- . brick - Flem bond on S. porch

Water table, string course, other decorative work essential to walls

Shin cove painted white on S.

Chimneys in gable - West side, partially painted also

wing

Name _____

MHT#

K-189

Entrance type & placement Center - panelled posts + door -w/ day ears - culver + pediment addedWindows 9/9 - 2/6Shutters louveredRoof type Acovering woodCornice, eaves wood - shaped moldings - good proportionsDormers, cupolas 9 pane cantsPorches terrace in front wingWings, hyphens 2 bays - 2 stories

Interior:

Stairway _____

Doors _____

Trim _____

Other noteable work _____

Name _____ MHT# K-189Physical condition Very good - overly restoredEnvironment farm

References:

MHT Color slide # _____

MHT B & W # _____

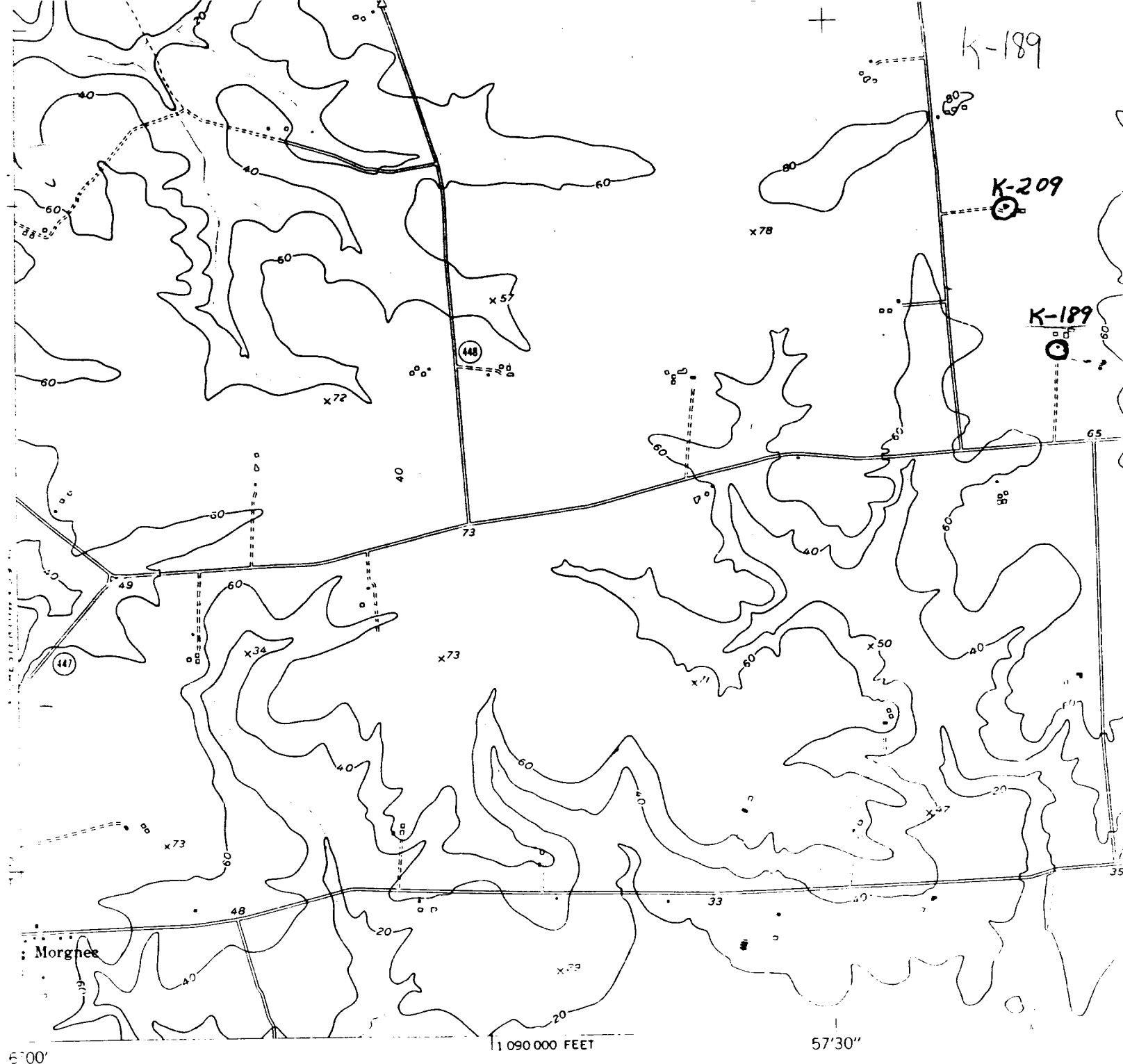
Owner contacted _____

OTHER: _____

Recorder Michael BaurweDate Sept 12, 1968

Summary: _____

Enclosures: e.g. Map, Historical significance, sketch of floor plan,
and angle of photos, etc.

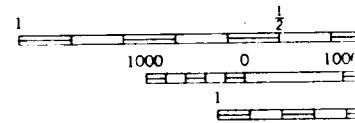
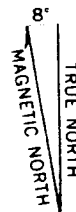


Mapped by the Army Map Service
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC&GS

Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
 taken 1937 and 1942. Topography by plane-table surveys
 Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1953
 Hydrography from USC&GS chart 572 dated 1941

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 1"=20-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system

Map photoinspected 1974
 No major culture or drainage changes observed



DEPTH CURVES AND
 SHORELINE SHOWN

GALENA QUADRANGLE

THIS MAP CO.
 FOR SALE BY U.S.
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING



K-189

Mt. Hermon

Rt. 447, near Chesterville

M. Q. Fallaw - 9/20/85

View to north

K 189
#30
622C

HERMON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
LIBRARY

K-189 Mt. Hermon C. 1794



K-189

Mt. Hermon

Rt. 447, near Chesterville

M. Q. Fallaw - 9/20/85

View to southeast

K189
#264
7 mm w/bm